

he didn't mind his one error and went after everything. He had the honor of being the first Sock to cross the plate on the South Side this year, doubling to right his first time up.

The idea that the Sox are to have a walkaway in this American league race should be discarded. It is to be a parade for no team. The margin of victory for the winner next October will be extremely small, and only by keeping on the job eternally, fighting every step of the way and avoiding disastrous slumps can the Sox come home in front.

They will have powerful opposition from Boston and New York in the east and from all the western teams. St. Louis is to be a thorn in the side of any club this season, and the Indians and Tigers have a thunderous attack, backed by better pitching than either received last year. Boston is playing its same strong defensive game, and the Yanks demonstrated last season what they were capable of until injuries upset them.

Washington is down in the race, but it is not a weak club. And Connie Mack will win probably twice as many ball games as he did in 1916. Mack has found two or three good young pitchers to pace with Myers and Bush, and in Bates has a competent man for third base.

Teamwork will decide the pennant this season, and the club which comes nearest to perfecting it should ride home in front. In that quarter the Sox have something to learn. As an instance, Collins and Chick Gandil both went after a fly ball between first and second yesterday. Eddie called to make the play, but Gandil cut in front of him and picked the ball out of his hands. Fortunately, there was no damage, but it might easily have been a wicked play. The mere dropping of one ball isn't the thing to be feared. In mix-ups of this nature there is always a chance that some high-priced athlete will be injured.

In Jacobsen Fielder Jones seems to have solved his outfield problem and now has as good a fly-chasing outfit as he could desire.

Old Eddie Plank was yesterday's hero. His aged arm contained remarkable cunning. On only one occasion when there was danger did he pitch a good ball for a batter to hit, and that one Jackson pickled. At other stages Ed was working the weaknesses of the sluggers. He passed not a one, but gave three balls to several trying to nick the corners of the plate. During one rally, after being in a hole, he struck Buck Weaver out on a couple of near wild pitches, the shoots that are irresistible to Buck. Plank knew it.

Here is a prediction: The Cubs will do better away from home than on the North Side during the early part of the season. Reason: They will find warmer weather. Larry Doyle, Rolfe Zeider and Harry Wolter like the high-temperated going and proved it in the first game at Pittsburgh. Doyle cracked three hits. And he was confident enough to take longer chances with his flat runner than in the frigid atmosphere of the North Side.

Dutch Reuther poled a triple and single, some of the hitting he did on the training trip. If this young fellow can only keep his eye on the ball Manager Mitchell has the chance to develop a remarkable first baseman. Even at the expense of spoiling a good pitcher, the move would be good, for a first baseman is in every day. Reuther takes a clean, vigorous swing at the ball and is cool. He has yet to learn how to shift his feet at the first stop, both to prevent injury to himself and to enable him to pull in wide throws. Mitchell should be able to instruct him in these points, for the lad is not thick-headed or lead footed.

Even should Reuther, through inexperience, cause the loss of a few games at first base, it would seem better policy, a more far-sighted sys-